

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ ye



**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

PG#68-4-35

historic Lynch House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 4808 Sheridan Street

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Riverdale

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

**3. Classification**

**Category**

\_\_\_ district

☒ building(s)

\_\_\_ structure

\_\_\_ site

\_\_\_ object

**Ownership**

\_\_\_ public

☒ private

\_\_\_ both

**Public Acquisition**

\_\_\_ in process

\_\_\_ being considered

☒ not applicable

**Status**

☒ occupied

\_\_\_ unoccupied

\_\_\_ work in progress

**Accessible**

\_\_\_ yes: restricted

\_\_\_ yes: unrestricted

☒ no

**Present Use**

\_\_\_ agriculture

\_\_\_ commercial

\_\_\_ educational

\_\_\_ entertainment

\_\_\_ government

\_\_\_ industrial

\_\_\_ military

\_\_\_ museum

\_\_\_ park

☒ private residence

\_\_\_ religious

\_\_\_ scientific

\_\_\_ transportation

\_\_\_ other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Antonio M. and Carmelia F. Alexandre

street & number 4810 Sheridan Street

telephone no.: 864-3457

city, town Riverdale

state and zip code MD 20737

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber 5916

street & number Main Street

folio 485

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title None

date

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lynch House is located on Sheridan Street, two blocks east of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in the first section of Riverdale Park. The house, built in 1924, was built from a Sears and Roebuck house catalog. Except for the reversed plan, little appears to be different.

The house is a two-story, two bay, four square with a hip roof and pyramidal dormer in the front. The dormer is presently covered with siding. Reddish-brown colored asphalt shingles cover the frame dwelling and the house has a green shingle roof. An overhanging roof extends over the wall. The house has a textured concrete block foundation. The windows are all 1/1 double hung wooden sash although they are varying sizes. Plain boards surround each window and door. A one-story shed addition also has aluminum siding.

The main facade is faces south onto the street. The entrance, reversed from the Sears plan, is located in the east bay and has a wooden door with three rectangular panes (not believed to be original). A double window is located to the west and a single window has been placed between the door and these windows. The second level has two pairs of windows, identical to the first story's. A small three-light window is located in the dormer.

The first story is protected by a hip roofed porch. Three square cement piers are the base for a grouping of three square columns (the center support only has two) that flare at the top and are connected by wooden stickwork. A plain wooden railing with square balusters and a flat handrail enclose the porch except at the entrance. Concrete steps with concrete side supports lead to the entrance. Lattice work connects the area between the piers.

The east facade has symmetrically placed windows although they are different sizes. The front window on the first story is larger than the other three; the two second story windows are identical and evenly spaced. The shed addition has one similar window. The west facade also has four windows, although they are asymmetrically arranged. The two first story windows are placed near the front while the second story is more spread out with the rear window smaller than its counterparts. A cellar window is located on this facade. The first level of the rear facade has the one story shed addition which does not appear to be original to the house and would not have been found in the Sears design.1

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

PB #68-4-35

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lynch House, a Sears and Roebuck Catalog house from the 1920s, is a fine example of the mail-order catalog movement that spread throughout the United States in the twentieth century. It is one of eight recorded Sears and Roebuck houses in Riverdale and eighty in Prince George's County.<sup>2</sup> As such, the house exemplifies the popularity of one house plan catalog company in suburban areas throughout the United States.

The subdivision of Riverdale Park was platted on land that belonged to the Calvert family of Maryland for much of the nineteenth century. In 1887, a 474 acre lot was sold to the Riverdale Park Company, a New York real estate firm, who planned to develop the subdivision of Riverdale Park.<sup>3</sup>

From its conception, Riverdale Park was promoted as one of the more desirable suburbs of Washington. Its location along the B & O Railroad line from Washington afforded both the convenience of an easy commute to the city and the picturesque quality of a rural subdivision. The subdivision's grid like streets were tree-lined, included open areas and circles. Most of the principal streets included such modern amenities as concrete sidewalks and sewers.<sup>4</sup> The schoolhouse, several goods stores, a church and both telegraph and telephone communication all enticed people who worked in Washington. By the early years of the twentieth century, close to eighty residences had already been erected.<sup>5</sup> Many of these houses were typical of the suburban ideal growing throughout the major cities of the United States; comfortable and affordable houses for the middle class ranging from Queen Anne to simple cottage style. Some were constructed by individuals who purchased property and built immediately. Other lots were sold to developers or residents who planned to build and then sell the house. Many of the lots were sold by 1910, but little construction occurred on them until the construction boom of the 1920s brought about by the automobile.

This was the case for the house at 4808 Sheridan Street. While an individual, Harry Kendrick of the District of Columbia,

4808 Sheridan Street  
Lynch House

8. Significance (cont.)

purchased lots 13 and 14 of block 16 in 1910, it subsequently changed hands twice more before a house was constructed.<sup>6</sup> In 1923, John J., a salesman, and Marie J. Lynch purchased the land and a year later were assessed for an improvement at this location. The Lynches lived here for almost twenty years during which time John was elected as acting mayor of Riverdale.<sup>7</sup> They constructed a Sears and Roebuck catalog house called the Langston. The design was considered to be a "neat and roomy house, sturdy and attractive, at a very low price".<sup>8</sup> The house was designed especially with two objects in view: economy of floor space and low cost. Although built in 1924, the house last appeared in the 1922 catalog with one of its major locations listed as Washington, D.C. Sears houses were an integral part of the suburban movement in the first decades of the twentieth century. The house has been reversed in plan but otherwise appears to have had few changes. Dorothy Louise and Morgan S. Watson purchased the house in 1943 and resided there until the death of Morgan at which time (1984) Dorothy sold the house.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Block 16, Lot 13

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

D

F 

[illegible]

### 11. Form Prepared By

PS-2746

4808 Sheridan Street  
Lynch House (cont.)

1. This house is currently rental property and the owner was unable to be reached at this time. No one was home during site visits. The interior and rear of the house, therefore were not able to be surveyed.
2. Susan G. Pearl, Sears and Roebuck Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland. Historic Preservation Commission Planning Department, MNCPPC, Prince George's County, Maryland.
3. Town of Riverdale, Maryland, 1920-1970 (History of Riverdale, Maryland, 1970, p. 13).
4. Riverdale Park Real Estate brochure (undated), circa 1904.
5. *ibid.*
6. Prince George's County Land Deeds (see Chain of Title); Tax Assessment Books, 1910-1924.
7. Town of Riverdale, Maryland, 1920-1970, p. 48.
8. Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandhl, Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company (Washington: Preservation Press), 1986.